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blown out, or the oil falling on the compass.

The lens in the front of the binnacle, which magnifies the compass, is also a very considerable advantage, as it enables the steersman to see the point more distinctly; and the whole of the apparatus being inclosed, the light is prevented from appearing in the night to any person except the steersman, and the weather from affecting the compass.

The improvements relating to the compass are as follows: It is sus-

pending in gimbals as usual, with the addition of a spiral spring to each axis: these springs relieve the compass when any sudden or violent motion of the ship takes place. The compass card is so constructed as to prevent its vibrating, and is suspended on a spiral spring, acting within two cylinders. By this suspension the point is preserved, and the card secured in its place, although the motion may be excessively violent.

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## DOCUMENTS.

*Remarks on the Sixth Report of the Directors of the African Institution, read at the Annual General Meeting, on the 25th of March, 1812.*

[From the Philanthropist]

WE adopt the earliest opportunity of laying before our readers an account of this interesting publication.

In many respects have the friends of the Africans held up a most instructive example to those of their countrymen who may undertake the removal of evil: in none more conspicuously, than in the zeal and success with which they have worked upon the public mind, through that great instrument of human improvement and happiness, the press.

Their very first step was an appeal to the humanity of the British public, through a variety of publications, painting in the strongest colours the atrocious cruelties to which the slaves were condemned, in the tearing of them from their friends and country; during their passage at sea, and in the colonies after they arrived. We can recollect how these efforts were calumniated: what calamitous effects were predicted as sure to arise from them. They were treated (in the style usual against every exhortation to the removal of abuse) as *inflammatory, as pregnant with the seeds of insurrection, revolt, massacre, and extermination* in the colonies. Every West Indian merchant and planter, with hardly a single exception, denounced the murder of every white man, and the ruin of every white man's property, as a consequence that was altogether inevitable. It is in the recollection of the public what means were used to acquire supporters to the inhuman trade; what ministers, what royal Dukes were applauded, and proclaimed as opposing a popular and dangerous clamour, in the true spirit of philanthropy and patriotism. They were called friends to

property, friends to experience, to a system the perfection of which the wisdom of ages had confirmed. They were enemies to innovation, to untried experiments, to speculation, the rage of which was the hurrying on of the pretended friends of the Africans to produce ruin and devastation. Notwithstanding these accusations, which deter so many persons from the pursuit of abuses which they clearly see preying upon the prosperity of their country, the friends of the abolition held on a steady and manly course; never intermitted their labours, returned expeditious answers to all the pleas of their opponents, solicited the public attention by innumerable representations of the circumstances of the case, tried the legislature, when baffled were not disheartened, applied again to the public mind, assured, that if the public were sufficiently prepared, the legislature could not, on such a point as this, stand at absolute variance with the nation: and after years of exertion and defeat, at last made such progress in moulding the sentiments of the nation, that it would not have been long in the power of any ministry to withstand the work; when a ministry at last appeared, who prudently conferred upon themselves the honour and distinction of having abolished the Slave trade.

This is a practical and invaluable lesson to the friends of improvement in this country. It is in this way alone that almost any chance of improvement exists. All material improvements are sure of resistance, because every such improvement has by the nature of the case a host of powerful individuals interested in preventing it; interested in making an outcry against it; interested in enlisting every prejudice to oppose it; interested in employing every calumny that can render it suspected; interested in employing all the